

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – February 2026

Pastor's Paragraphs

When was the last time you fasted? (Perhaps you never fasted at all!) My guess is that the last time you fasted was for some medical reason. There was a test or procedure planned that needed your digestive system to be empty, or your blood chemistry to be a certain way. But how about a religious fast? Have you ever given up food for a specific time because of a spiritual reason? Perhaps. Fasting used to be a regular part of Christian faith. It's hard to pin down the details, but in the early centuries it appears that some Christians may have fasted on one or more days every week. Of course Jesus fasted 40 days in the wilderness. That gives us the season of Lent. Such fasting is surely unhealthy, if you can survive it at all! But fasting for a day is not harmful for a physically healthy person.

How about the last time you had a feast? You can probably think of that fairly quickly! We'd much rather feast than fast. That seems to be a part of our human nature. We prefer indulgence to discipline.

Our society today seems to be all about indulging. Consume more. Eat more. Drink more. Have bigger homes, more stuff, and more complicated automobiles. But we never seem to be satisfied. Instead of things like fasting, rationing, and self-denial, we seem to endlessly create justifications for why we should be (or deserve to be) consuming more.

This attitude is harmful to our faith. Jesus assumed his followers would fast (Matthew 6:16). He does not give specific instructions, which means it's up to each individual believer. Fasting helps us be in control of our desires and opens us to the workings of the Spirit.

I'm not going to make a specific prescription to fast; although it is a time-honored Christian practice and is a good part of a person's faith life. (Even famous Christians like Dietrich Bonhoeffer and C.S. Lewis made fasting a regular part of their faith.) But it is a way to point out just how far our culture is from our faith. It is our faith's expectation to refrain from consumption. Constant consumption does not fill us. It leaves us truly empty. As we come into the season of Lent in February, consider a serious fast from something, or an occasional fast from eating. Such discipline is often and essential part of faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon



Fat Tuesday French Toast Supper

Fat Tuesday is February 17. On this day Christians traditionally celebrated by consuming all the fat in their pantries in preparation for the somber and penitential season of Lent.

We'll mark this date with a supper of French toast made with homemade bread, fresh fruit, and ice cream. As a bit of light hearted entertainment we'll show the 20 minute movie *Cops* by Buster Keaton. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area



Ash Wednesday Worship

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

February 18

1:00pm, Lyons Church

7:00pm, Victor Church

Weather Cancellations

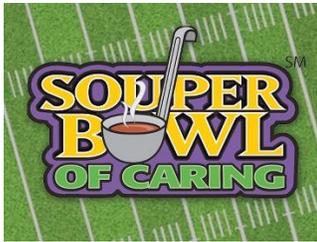
If we need to cancel a worship service or event due to weather we will post it on the church's Facebook page and send it to the email list. Please contact Pastor Jon if you have any cancellation questions.



Give Up Lint for Lent

This bizarre collection is an annual tradition in our congregation's Lenten journey. Last year it was published nationwide as a feature article in *Living Lutheran*.

There is a collection box in the Gathering Area for you to put your **dryer lint, used dryer sheets, old crayons and stubs of candles**. This worthless stuff (and somewhat gross) will be melted together and burnt on the fire at the sunrise service on Easter. We're also going to add in all the prayer sheets from the 10:30 service and burn them too; as prayers rising up to God. This Lent, once again give up your most worthless stuff so that God can turn it into heat and light!



Souper Bowl of Caring -February 8, Two Collections-



Cash – We will put a large soup pot in the back of the sanctuary to collect cash donations to give to World Hunger. This is our usual Souper Bowl collection.



Soup – The Tuesday Women's Bible Study would like to challenge you to a participate in the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard pop top soup collection. Let's see how many cans we can donated to the food cupboard. We'll pile them next to the soup pot in the sanctuary. Talk to Burdie Gillern if you have any questions.



Victor Giving Tree Thank You

Dear Donors:

On behalf of all of us at the Victor Holiday Giving Tree committee, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous contribution of 55 gift cards to the Giving Tree. Your support helped make the holiday season brighter for families in need, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our cause.

We were able to provide gift cards for 128 families and 383 students ensuring that families can experience the warmth and joy of the season. Your generosity makes a real difference, and we are honored to have you as a partner in our mission.

Thank you once again for you incredible support. We wish you all a joyful and peaceful new year.

The Holiday Giving Coordinators:

Katherine Kavanaugh, Holly Knox, Erin Lettman, and Maren Miller



-Thank you to the Sunday school teachers for organizing the Christmas pageant.

-Thank you to everyone who made cupcakes for coffee hour on December 21.

-Thank you to everyone who made a gingerbread house.

-Thank you to Karen Spawton for playing organ on the organ anniversary celebration on December 14.

Thank you to Jim Spawton for arranging the purchase of upgraded components for our sound system.

-Thank you to Tom Urbanic for research on the plow truck repairs and arranging for them to be made.



- Alex Clark, friend of the Shulers. He is a 38 year old father who was recently diagnosed with stomach and intestinal cancer.
- Paul Huber as he receives additional treatments to help with bone strength.
- Marilyn Bair who is weak and needs regular care.
- Patty Anderson, niece of Bruce Stevenson, who has congestive heart failure, declining kidney function, and diabetes.
- Pat Eddy, neighbor of the Zueges, who is on hospice care.
- The family and friends of Ella Schuller as they mourn her death.
- Pat Eddy, neighbor of the Zueges, who has entered hospice care.



“Snow Problem” At All – Except

We snow what we’re doing, and it’s worth every frozen dollar. Ten years ago we began plowing the parking lot ourselves. That has saved us something in the range of \$60,000 - \$80,000. But our snowplow broke three weeks ago and parts aren’t available. A local dealer has a used plow that he will sell us and mount to our truck for a price of \$6,000. We’re putting together a small appeal to pay that unexpected expense. If you’re able to help please label your check or electronic deposit “Snow Problem Appeal.” Talk to Tom Urbanic for more information.

Victor Community Clothes Closet -Underwear Collection-

All you need is love...

...and underwear.

The Community Clothes Closet at the United Methodist Church in Victor is in need of both women’s and mens’ adult and children’s new underwear.

During the month of February, please show your love and help them to help those in need.

All donations will be collected in a large plastic tote bin in the Gathering Area. At the end of February the collected items will be delivered to the Methodist Church.



January Bible Trivia Answers

1. What did John the Baptist call the Pharisees and Sadducees who were coming to him? Answer: A brood of vipers (Matthew 3:7)
2. In what river was Jesus baptized by John? Answer: Jordan (Matthew 3:13)
3. How many days does Jesus spend in the wilderness being tested by the devil? Answer: 40 (Matthew 4:2)
4. When Jesus moves away from Nazareth in what city/town does he start to live? Answer: Capernaum (Matthew 4:13)

February Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings chosen for worship in February.

1. Jesus sends the twelve disciples on a missionary journey to people of which nation only?
2. Where is John the Baptist when he asks of Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”
3. How much food does Jesus start with in the Feeding of the 5000 miracle?
4. What happens to Peter when he is walking on the water towards Jesus but then sees the strong wind?

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>4th Sunday of Epiphany</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	2 <u>Presentation of Jesus in the Temple</u> 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	3 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	4 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	5 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	6 2-7 Cello Lessons	7
8 <u>5th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Sunday School Worship	9 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Victor Church Council 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Property	11 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	12 10:00 Lyons Church Council 11:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	13 2-7 Cello Lessons	14
15 <u>6th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8:30 Service of the Word 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion	16 <u>President's Day</u>	17 <u>Fat Tuesday</u> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 French Toast Feast	18 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Worship (Lyons) 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Worship (Victor) 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	19 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	20 2-7 Cello Lessons	21
22 <u>1st Sunday of Lent</u> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Service of the Word	23 3-7 Violin Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 <u>St. Matthias, Apostle</u> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3-7 Violin Lessons	25 8:30 Men's Breakfast 3-7 Violin Lessons 6:00 Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	26 10:00 Bible study at Lyons Church 10:00-2:30 Monarch Homeschool	27 2-7 Cello Lessons	28



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*We are a community of faith
committed to living and sharing the love of God.*

St. John's Lutheran Church

888 County Rd. 9

Victor, NY 14564

The Reverend Jonathan Deibler, Pastor

(585) 924-5192

www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

February Newsletter

2/17 Fat Tuesday French Toast Feast

2/18 Ash Wednesday Worship